REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The claims have been amended above to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1-14 and 16-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Reed (US 2002/0095454). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed (US 2002/0095454) in view of Wolton et al. (US 2004/0030741). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Independent claim 1 claims a communication system comprising a database and a database agent. The database agent is **configured to** determine if a communication has a task tag. The database agent is **configured to** transfer predetermined communication tag information of the task tag of the communication to the database. The database agent is **configured to** automatically send a communication based upon information stored in the predetermined communication tag information.

The examiner has stated that "11" in Reed et al. is equivalent to applicants' claimed database and that somehow paragraphs 0031 and 0090 disclose applicants' claimed database agent. This appears to be incorrect. Although "11" is a database, there is no disclosure or suggestion in paragraphs 0031 and 0090 of Reed et al. of a database agent configured to determine if a communication has a task tag. There is no disclosure or suggestion in paragraphs 0031 and 0090 of Reed et al. of a database agent configured to transfer predetermined communication tag information of the task tag of

the communication to the database 11. There is no disclosure or suggestion in paragraphs 0031 and 0090 of Reed et al. of a database agent configured to automatically send a communication based upon information stored in the predetermined communication tag information.

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. Reed et al. does not teach a database agent configured to **determine** if a communication has a task tag. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach a database agent configured to **transfer** predetermined communication tag information of a task tag of the communication to a database. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach a database agent configured to **automatically send** a communication based upon information stored in the predetermined communication tag information. Reed et al. simply does not "anticipate" the features recited in claim 1.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Independent claim 13 claims a method for automatically tracking progress of a task on a computer network consisting of one or more users on a plurality of computer systems, the method comprising:

tagging a communication to be delivered between the computer systems over the network to form a tagged communication; and

acting on the tagged communication automatically by a database agent of an apparatus.

The examiner indicated that paragraphs 0031 and 0090 of Reed et al. anticipated this claimed method. This is incorrect. Paragraph 0031 of Reed et al. merely describes that a provider program (12) is used to create, edit, and maintain data, metadata and instructions in a provider database (11). The provider program (12) controls distribution of the information to various consumers. Different information contained in the provider database (11) can be transferred and used in communications relationships with different consumers. The provider program (12) also receives and uses information from the consumer computer (2) to control encoding and transfer of information to the consumer computer (2). Paragraph 0090 of Reed et al. merely describes that appropriate programs executing on the provider computer 1 and the consumer computer 2 perform the functions necessary to transfer, maintain, and update the information at both locations. The provider program 12 operates to transmit changes in information stored in the provider database 11 at the provider computer 1. When changes are made to the information and the database, the provider program 12 operates to disseminate the changed information through the communications network 3. Upon receipt of changed information, the consumer program 22 operates to perform certain functions with regard to that changed information. Principally, the information is stored

in consumer database 21 on the consumer computer 2 for future reference and usage in controlling and automating communications between the consumer and provider.

Neither paragraph 0031 nor paragraph 0090 of Reed et al. disclose or suggest a method for automatically tracking progress of a task on a computer network consisting of one or more users on a plurality of computer systems, the method comprising:

tagging a communication to be delivered between the computer systems over the network to form a tagged communication; and

acting on the tagged communication automatically by a database agent.

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. Reed et al. does not teach all of the features of claim 13 noted above. The features of claim 13 are certainly not "anticipated" by the disclosure in paragraphs 0031 and 0090 of Reed et al. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 13 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 13. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Independent claim 33 claims a communication system configured to attach a task tag to a communication; and a tracking system separate from a communication sending computer and a communication receiving computer which is configured to automatically enter predetermined information of the task tag of the communication into a database in a storage device.

Reed et al. clearly does not disclose a communication system configured to attach a task tag to a communication; and a tracking system separate from a communication sending computer and a communication receiving computer which is configured to automatically enter predetermined information of the task tag of the communication into a database. The examiner cited paragraph 0090 and Fig. 1 of Reed et al. as a basis for rejecting claim 33. These portions of Reed et al. (nor any other portions of Reed et al. reviewed by applicant's attorney) do not disclose or suggest a communication system configured to attach a task tag to a communication; and a tracking system separate from a communication sending computer and a communication receiving computer which is configured to automatically enter predetermined information of the task tag of the communication into a database.

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. The examiner has not established a prima facie case of anticipation. Reed et al. does not "anticipate" all of the features of claim 33. Thus, claim 33 is patentable and should be allowed.

Independent claims 34 claims a method of tracking tasks comprising:

    sending a communication;

    attaching a task tag to the communication;

    recording, by an automatic database agent, at least a portion of data in the task tag into a database in a storage device; and

    automatically sending a communication by the automatic database agent based, at least partially, on the data in the task tag.

The paragraphs of Reed et al. cited by the examiner (0090; 0180; 0093; 0031, 0090-program) do not disclose attaching a task tag to the communication; recording, by an automatic database agent, at least a portion of data in the task tag into a database; and automatically sending a communication by the automatic database agent based, at least partially, on the data in the task tag. Paragraph 0093 discloses that the consumer database 21 can include instruction, and that the provider can include special forms to be processed by the consumer program 22 to automatically transfer data from the consumer database 21 back to the provider, and paragraph 0180 mentions a header tag. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion attaching a **task tag** to the communication; recording, by an automatic database agent, at least a portion of data in the task tag into a database; and automatically sending a communication by the automatic database agent **based, at least partially, on the data in the task tag.**

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. Reed et al. does not teach attaching a **task tag** to the communication; recording, by an automatic database agent, at least a portion of data in the task tag into a database; and automatically sending a communication by the automatic database agent **based**, at least partially, **on the data in the task tag**. Thus, Reed et al. does not teach all of the features of claim 34. Reed et al. does not "anticipate" the features recited in claim 34. Therefore, claim 34 is patentable and should be allowed.

Independent claim 35 claims a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodied in a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for tracking tasks, the method comprising steps of:

searching a first communication to determine if the first communication has a task tag, the task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress; and

automatically sending a second communication by an automated database agent based upon data in the task tag.

The paragraphs of Reed et al cited by the examiner (0090; 0180; 0093; 0031, 0090-program) do not disclose a communication having a task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress; much less searching a first communication to determine if the first communication has a task tag. The paragraphs of Reed et al cited by the examiner do not disclose

automatically sending a second communication by an automated database agent based upon data in a task tag.

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. Reed et al. does not teach a communication having a task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress; much less searching a first communication to determine if the first communication has a task tag. Reed et al. does not teach automatically sending a second communication by an automated database agent based upon data in a task tag. Thus, Reed et al. clearly does not "anticipate" the features recited in claim 35. The features recited in claim 35 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited reference. Therefore, claim 35 is patentable and should be allowed.

Independent claim 36 claims a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodied in a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for tracking tasks, the method comprising steps of:

creating a communication; and

attaching a task tag to the communication comprising a task topic and a task progress.

Reed et al. does not disclose a task tag; much less a task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress. Thus, Reed et al. clearly does not disclose attaching a task tag to a communication comprising a task topic and a task progress as recited in claim 36. The paragraphs of Reed et al cited by
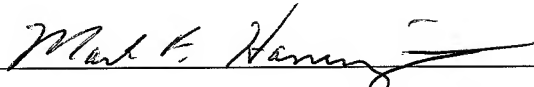
the examiner (0090; 0180; 0093; 0031, 0090-email) do not disclose a task tag; much less a task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress, or attaching a task tag to a communication comprising a task topic and a task progress as recited in claim 36. The examiner has not established prima facie evidence of anticipation.

As noted in MPEP 2131, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In the present case, Reed et al. does not teach every element of the claim. Reed et al. does not teach a task tag; much less a task tag comprising a task topic and a task progress, or attaching a task tag to a communication comprising a task topic and a task progress. Thus, Reed et al. clearly does not "anticipate" the features recited in claim 36. Nor are the features of claim 36 suggested by the cited art. Therefore, claim 36 is patentable and should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington   _5/1/09_

Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)   Date

Customer No.: 48237
Harrington & Smith, PC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400